

Advocates from 40 states have travelled to Washington to talk about the pharmacy community's contributions in over 40,000 community pharmacies nationwide. These important healthcare providers are here to educate Congress about the value of pharmacists and protect access to the essential services they provide as part of our healthcare delivery system. And just as these providers travelled to meet with us, Members of Congress have toured retail chain pharmacies in our own communities more than 250 times since 2009. There are 106 chain pharmacies in my own Congressional District, and those stores employ nearly 10,000 Washingtonians.

Patients have always relied on their local pharmacist to meet their healthcare needs. The local pharmacist is a trusted, highly accessible healthcare provider deeply committed to providing the highest quality care in the most efficient manner possible.

As demand for healthcare services continues to grow, pharmacists have expanded their role in healthcare delivery, partnering with physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers to meet their patients' needs. Innovative services provided by pharmacists do even more to improve patient healthcare. Pharmacists are highly valued by those that rely on them most—those in rural and underserved areas, as well as older Americans, and those struggling to manage chronic diseases. Pharmacy services improve patients' quality of life as well as healthcare affordability. By helping patients take their medications effectively and providing preventive services, pharmacists help avoid more costly forms of care. Pharmacists also help patients identify strategies to save money, such as through better understanding of their pharmacy benefits, using generic medications, and obtaining 90-day supplies of prescription drugs from local pharmacies.

Pharmacists are the nation's most accessible healthcare providers. In many communities, especially in rural areas, the local pharmacist is a patient's most direct link to healthcare. Eighty-nine percent of Americans reside within a five-mile radius of a community pharmacy. Pharmacists are one of our nation's most trusted healthcare professionals. Utilizing their specialized education, pharmacists play a major role in medication therapy management, disease-state management, immunizations, healthcare screenings, and other healthcare services designed to improve patient health and reduce overall healthcare costs. Pharmacists are also expanding their role into new models of care based on quality of services and outcomes, such as accountable care organizations (ACOs) and medical homes.

As we refine healthcare reform and seek new strategies to improve patient care, pharmacists will play a critical role. I believe Congress should look at every opportunity to make sure that pharmacists are allowed to utilize their training to the fullest to provide the services that can improve care and lower costs. In recognition of the Sixth Annual NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill, I would like to congratulate pharmacy leaders, pharmacists, students, executives, and the entire pharmacy community represented by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, for their contributions to the good health of the American people.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN RAFFERTY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel John Rafferty of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our nation at the Deputy of the Army House Liaison Division on Capitol Hill. Lieutenant Colonel Rafferty will soon transition to the Legislative Director for the Commander of the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Army Congressional Liaison officers provide an invaluable service to both the military and Congress. They assist Members and staff in understanding the Army's policies, actions, operations, and requirements. Their firsthand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices.

A native of Great Falls, Virginia, Lieutenant Colonel Rafferty enlisted in the Army in 1987 and served in Germany with the 8th Infantry Division. Two years later, he left the active Army to return to college and pursue a commission as an Army Officer. He received his commission as Second Lieutenant in the Regular Army as a Field Artillery officer. During the next twenty years, LTC Rafferty served in a variety of tactical assignments, including service in 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 75th Ranger Regiment, staff officer in the 25th Infantry Division, command of two artillery batteries in the 1st Armored Division, and command of 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. Along with becoming an Army Ranger and Master Parachutist, he served multiple combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Additionally, he was selected as an exchange officer for the U.S. Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School and for the United Kingdom Joint Services Command and Staff College with the British Military.

Lieutenant Colonel Rafferty is both warrior and scholar. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Longwood College, a Master of Arts in Defense Policy from King's College-London, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

His devotion to his country is matched only by his commitment to family. Lieutenant Colonel Rafferty is married to the lovely Tracey Lowery Rafferty. They're proud parents of a thirteen-year-old daughter, Erin, and a twelve-year-old son, Evan.

Lieutenant Colonel Rafferty's great work has not gone unnoticed. His military awards include the Combat Action Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, three Bronze Star Medals, and the Iraq and Afghanistan Campaign Medals. He was inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara and is a Distinguished Member of both the 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment and 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Lieutenant Colonel John Rafferty as he proceeds into the next chapter of his remarkable career and continues to serve the United States of America. I wish him the best as he continues to serve our great Nation and proceeds to the next chapter in his remarkable career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 90, I was unable to attend the vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JAXSON'S ICE CREAM PARLOUR

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Monroe Udell and Ms. Linda Zakeheim, the owners of Jaxson's Ice Cream Parlour located in Dania Beach, Florida.

Jaxson's has long been a staple in Dania Beach and this cultural landmark currently employs more than 70 people. Now, Monroe and Linda have taken it upon themselves to improve the standard of living for their employees. On February 24, 2014—the day of Monroe's 86th birthday—Jaxson's raised their minimum wage from \$7.93 to \$10.10 an hour.

Monroe and Linda have always appreciated the work their employees do to create a top rated restaurant. This higher minimum wage will allow their employees to enjoy a better standard of living and improved economic security. It will allow them to contribute more to the South Florida economy. And, it will show other businesses in the region that paying a higher wage is possible, profitable, and the right thing to do.

In 1965, Boisey Waiters, Dania's first African American City Commissioner, told me about Jaxson's, and I instantly became a fan. Monroe first opened the restaurant in 1953, and even then, it was a beacon. At that time, most establishments in Broward County did not serve colored people. Yet, from the very beginning Monroe took a stand against segregation by hiring and serving all restaurant patrons, regardless of race. That is why I was not surprised to hear that Monroe and Linda acted on their own conscience to help their employees afford a better lifestyle. Sixty-one years later, Jaxson's is still showing the way with their actions to better support their employees.

The employees of Jaxson's have worked tirelessly to develop the reputation of a restaurant that provides excellent food, great ice cream, and a family friendly atmosphere.

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to acknowledge and thank Monroe Udell, Linda Zakeheim, General Manager Jerry Smith, as well as all the employees working at Jaxson's. I wish them many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING DAN "OX" OCHSNER

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dan "Ox" Ochsner for more than a